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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 002195

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/04/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [GG](#) [FR](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: THE FRENCH ARE STILL DELIBERATING ON ENGAGING  
GEORGIA IN INTENSIFIED DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 51994

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, Reason 1  
.4 B/D

[1](#)1. (C) Using reftel points, pol/mil officer sought on April 3 MFA support for NATO to begin Intensified Dialogue on Membership Questions with Georgia. MFA DAS-equivalent director for NATO/ESDP issues, Nicolas Niemtchinow, received our points, but declined any substantive comment, indicating that French political leaders had not come to any final conclusions on next steps for Georgia. He confirmed that the MFA would keep us informed as a position evolves.

[1](#)2. (C) During EUR A/S Fried's March 31 consultations with MFA Political Director Stanislas de Laboulaye and A/S-equivalent Director for Strategic Affairs Philippe Carre, they indicated that France, in formulating its final position, would want to take into account possible Russian reactions to closer ties with Georgia (septel).

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Stapleton